

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 OIC-02 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 H-01

NSC-05 EA-06 IOE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 /056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1540

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, CB, UN, GB

SUBJ: GABON VOTE ON KHMER ISSUE

REF: LIBREVILLE 1509

1. WHILE AT AIRPORT DECEMBER 10 FOR PRESIDENT BONGO'S RETURN FROM FOUR-DAY VISIT TO CAMEROON, I TOOK OCCASION TO RAISE AGAIN WITH FONMIN OKUMBA MATTER OF GABON'S VOTE ON KHMER ISSUE AND ASKED HIM IF HE COULD TELL ME WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

2. OKUMBA REPLIED THAT HE STILL NOT CERTAIN WHAT WENT WRONG BUT BELIEVED IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN A TECHNICAL BREAKDOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS, PERHAPS AS A RESULT OF FRENCH STRIKE. HE SAID THIS WAS FIRST TIME SUCH THING HAD HAPPENED SINCE HE HAS BEEN FONMIN. HE DID NOT THINK GABONESE PERMREP OBAME WOULD VOTE CONTRARY TO INSTRUCTIONS AND STRESSED AGAIN THAT CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS TO ABSTAIN HAD BEEN SENT BY TELEX VIA PARIS.

3. OKUMBA CONFIRMED TO ME THAT (AS HE HAD PROMISED ME ON DECEMBER 4 WHEN I BROUGHT MATTER TO HIS ATTENTION) HE HAD SINCE SENT ANOTHER TELEX (SUBSEQUENT TO FRENCH STRIKE) INSTRUCTION OBAME TO ABSTAIN IF KHMER ISSUE
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RAISED AGAIN IN UN, AS I HAD INDICATED MIGHT BE THE CASE.

4. COMMENT: SUGGEST THAT IF KHMER CREDENTIALS CHALLENGED
ANEW IN UN IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF USUN WOULD RELATE TO
OBAMA THE THREE CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD HERE WITH HIS
FONMIN (AS WELL AS FACT OKUMBA SPEAKING FOR PRESIDENT
BONGO).
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Message Attributes

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